

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INDIAN MEDIA CARRY INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR GOHEEN

1. THE MAY 16-31 EDITION OF THE BIWEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE
INDIA TODAY CARRIES A ONE AND ONE-HALF PAGE EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR GOHEEN UNDER THE HEADLINE
"I'M A MODERATE MAN." INTERVIEW REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE
AT NEW YORK OFFICES OF EDNA MCCONNELL CLARK FOUNDATION.

2. STORY WAS PICKED UP BY SAMACHAR WEDNESDAY AND WAS
CARRIED IN FOUR NEW DELHI DAILIES THIS MORNING -- INDIAN EXPRESS,
FINANCIAL EXPRESS, TIMES OF INDIA AND HINDUSTAN TIMES.
HEADLINES IN ALL PAPERS STRESSED THEME THAT GOHEEN
WILL STRIVE FOR BETTER INDO-US RELATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR THEMES OF THE INTERVIEW AS CARRIED
IN INDIA TODAY AND PICKED UP BY SAMACHAR:

(A) "I WANT TOSTRENGTHEN AND EXTEND THE RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO CREATE MAXIMUM
POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING".

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(B) "IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE CASE THAT TWO COUNTRIES
AS LARGE AND DIVERSE AS THESE TWO (INDIA AND AMERICA),
AS DIFFERENTLY PLACED GEOGRAPHICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
AS WE ARE, WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT HISTORICAL TRADITIONS
ARE GOING TO SEE CERTAIN ISSUES FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES."

(C) ON THE FUTURE TREND OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

GOHEEN REPORTEDLY SAID: "ITS GOING TO REQUIRE FROM THE US A LARGE MEASURE OF SELF-DENIAL AS WELL AS GENEROSITY." ELABORATING ON THE TERM SELF-DENIAL HE SAID: "THAT ITS NOT WE WHO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS. WE SHOULD NOT GO GOVER THERE WITH THE THIHPE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY, THE EXPERIENCE, THE KNOWLEDGE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS, WHICH IS AN AMERICAN TENDENCY. BUT, WE SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE KIND OF EMPHASIS MR. DESAI HAS STATED: THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIFTING THEMSELVES UP BY THE BOOT STRAPS AND SHOWING SELF-RELIANCE IN THIS AREA OF MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, I THINK THERE SHOULD BE WAYS IN WHICH AMERICA, WITH ITS RELATIVE WEALTH, WILL BE ABLE TO RELATE HELPFULLY BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDING ANY SUGGESTION OF DOMINANCE OR SUPERIORITY. THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY SELF DENIAL."

(D) COMMENTING ON WHAT THE INTERVIEWER CALLED "THE AMERICAN TENDENCY TO FEE SUPERIOR TO OTHER COUNTRIES," GOHEEN IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO LOOK INTO. IN EARLIER YEARS, WE MAY HAVE OFFERED TOO MUCH AND EXPECTED TOO MUCH IN RETURN. WE EXPECTED RESULTS WHICH WERE NOT ALWAYS FORTHCOMING BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS WERE MUCH MORE INTRACTIBLE THAN ANYBODY HAD ENVISAGED. WE EXPECTED GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION. DONORS SHOULD NEVER REALLY EXPECT THAT."

(E) "WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF INDIAN INITIATIVES WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH OUR GENERAL VALUES AND CONCERN FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS."

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(F) ASKED TO COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA BEING AN IRRITANT IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS GOHEEN IS QUOTED: "THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN AREAS OF FRICTION IN THE PAST BETWEEN INDIA AND OURSELVES. THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE IS ONE, ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS ANOTHER. IF NOT A BOMB, THE NUCLEAR DEVICE INDIA EXPLODED IS YET ANOTHER. AT THE MOMENT I FIND THE SITUATION UNUSUALLY OPEN AND ENCOURAGING. BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE STATED POSITIONS THAT ARE NOT TOO FAR APART. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE INDIAN OCEAN CLEARED OF THE MAJOR POWERS, WHICH IS SOMETHING THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS. MR. DESAI HAS SAID HE HAS NO INTEREST IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID HE FEELS THAT NUCLEAR POWER HAS GOT TO BE TONED DOWN AND REDUCED. TO ME ITS ENCOURAGING. HERE WE HAVE TWO NEW GOVERNMENTS AND BOTH OF THEM SEEM TO BE TALKING AND THINKING IN SOMEWHAT THE SAE DIRECTION."SCHNEIDER

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